

MINUTES

November 4, 2009

SITE: Merriam Park Recreation Center

MEMBERS PRESENT: Therese Kelly, Susan Bishop, Jonathan Carter, Peter Pha, and Andy Trcka.
Betsy Mowry and Erick Goodlow arrived at approximately 6:45 pm

MEMBERS ABSENT: Carrie Wasley (excused), Paul Middleton

STAFF PRESENT: Mike Hahm and Diana Berchem

GUESTS: None

1. AGENDA, MINUTES, INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Meeting was called at 6:30 pm by **Vice Chair Kelly**.
- b. **Commissioner Pha** moved to approve the Agenda and was 2nd by **Commissioner Bishop**. The vote was 5 to 0 in favor with four commissioners absent.
- c. **Commissioner Trcka** moved to approve the October minutes and was 2nd by **Commissioner Carter**. The vote was 5 to 0 in favor with four commissioners absent.

2. ACTION ITEMS

a. Resolution 09-19: Como Town Splash Pad

Michelle Furrer, Como Park Zoo and Conservatory Campus Manager, who was not in attendance, provided a staff report based on a District 10 meeting discussion of the Como Town Splash Pad project as requested from the October Parks Commission meeting. Director Hahm read the staff report sharing the concerns of District 10 as:

- Water circulation/moss treatment systems like what is used in other St. Paul pools where less chemical is prevalent. Lancer will investigate.
- Question on restriction of use by height – to keep out older children. Lancer has not set restrictions yet.
- Concern of losing the feel of the park within a park feel, less opportunity for parents to sit and watch, and loss of green space.
- Concern about safety of users who are wet being on other rides and on pavement.

It was motioned by Commissioner Carter to confirm Resolution #09-19 Como Town Splash Pad which was adopted at the October meeting acknowledging that staff met the specified conditions and was 2nd by Commissioner Pha. The vote was 7 to 0 in favor with two commissioners absent.

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. **Monthly Director's Report**

Director Hahm gave a quick explanation of the history/format of the Director's Report. The Director's Report has the same information generated for a Mayor's Report. The Mayor's Report is changing offering a possible new format for the Parks Commission. Director Hahm asked for feedback how to best report Parks and Recreation activities. Feedback can be sent to Director Hahm or Diana Berchem but initial comments from Commissioners were in favor of the Director's Report formatted with main points of interest with access to more details if needed. Sending the Director's report electronically is also preferred.

4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- a. **Budget Update** – No changes expected with the exception of possible adjustments to the operating budget. The Capital Budget proposal is on track to be adopted by the City Council.
- b. **Performance Measures and Financial Dashboard** – No comments made.
- c. **Recreation Services System and Staff Planning Review – Director Hahm** indicated there was no information to pass on at this time, but will address it at the December Parks Commission meeting.
- d. **Commission Goals – Review Division and Commission Accomplishment** – See Annual Meeting Suggestions notes.
- e. **Annual Meeting Suggestions** – Director Hahm indicated that the January Parks Commission meeting is the time to start discussions on the 2010 work plan. The scheduled date to address this (as established in the 2009 Parks Commission Work Plan Outline) is Thursday, January 14 (*note Thursday*) at Linwood Recreation Center with an earlier start time of 5:30 pm. Along with establishing the work plan other discussion items will include reviewing 2009 Activities and Accomplishments and presentations by Parks and Recreation Section Managers on their goals for 2010. Inviting the Mayor, City Council and any other organizations to join in the discussion of Parks and Recreation issues will be a December agenda item.
- f. **Downtown Park Donation** – The City of Saint Paul, Department of Parks and Recreation are in discussion with the Pedro Family to receive their generous donation of land and building where their business, Pedro Luggage, stood since 1914 located at 124 E. Tenth Street in downtown St. Paul. The Pedro Family wish to donate the property to the City free of charge with only the request to receive recognition of the Pedro Family name in the naming of the future park to honor their long tradition of doing business in St. Paul. It has been determined the property will be under the authority of the City's Real Estate Division until it is converted into a park. With the cost of demolition high, it is anticipated a park will be developed in about five years.

A resolution to accept the donation will be going before the City Council Wednesday, November 18.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS

- a. **Dog Park – Commissioner Mowry:** The plans to create a dog park within the Lilydale Regional Park was passed by City Council on October 29, 2009. Commission Mowry will be attending another Dog Park meeting in the near future with discussions focused on downtown park usage.

- b. **2nd Shift – Commissioner Mowry:** By the end of January, feedback/listening groups will be created consisting of business people and youth. Out of state initiatives have also been investigated for reference. The Mayor would like the program to be set and long term – beyond his term.
- c. **Blooming St. Paul – Commissioner Middleton:** No report given.
- d. **Ayd Mill Committee – Commissioner Carter:** Nothing to report.
- e. **Bicycle Advisory Board – Commissioner Carter:** Nothing to report.
- f. **Trees Committee – Commissioner Goodlow:** **Commission Goodlow** indicated there is an EAB committee meeting in the near future. He will report more at the December Commission meeting.
- d. **Ramsey County Water and Soil Conservation District – Chair Wasley:** No report given.
- e. **Other Reports –** No reports given.

5. ADJOURNMENT

It was motioned by **Commissioner Carter** and 2nd by **Commissioner Pha** to adjourn at 7:30 pm.